The Teacher’s Perspective of Mystery Skype

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In 20 minutes!
Who am I?

◎ Beginning my fourth full year of teaching 7th grade
◎ Traveled to 22 countries
◎ Mission as a teacher is for students to become inspired to create global connections and to create a level of curiosity
◎ In no way a FULL expert nor perfect on Mystery Skype. But boy, have I seen the potential!
Objectives

EWBET:

- What exactly Mystery Skype is
- How easy they are to do
- Benefits (and setbacks) of Mystery Skype through stories and experiences
“There’s so much happening around the world, and the only way to be more well versed is to be a global citizen, traveling from one place to another all the time.”

-Freida Pinto, advocate for #GlobalCitizen
What is Mystery Skype?

**Task:** As the video is playing, what are you seeing?
Mystery Skype 101

Skype is video chatting. Similar to FaceTime or Google Hangouts.

“The global guessing game that gets kids learning about geography, culture, and the similarities and differences of how children live all over the world.”

All you need is a webcam, microphone, and some form of location-finding tools!

Giant game of 20 questions (yes/no) → Goal? Determine location!

Let’s play!
- I’m from another country!
- Ask me yes or no questions to figure out where I’m from!
**Story Time!** (Setback #1/Benefit #1)

First MSkype: Nigeria!

Our Nigerian friends didn’t know how to play.

BUT we were the first groups of Americans they’ve ever spoken to

Led to students wanting to know more and creating their own video

SNOW!
How to connect with others

Microsoft’s Mystery Skype Website


Map view that shows available teachers around the world

Most of my international connections were from here

Twitter!

◎ #mysteryskype
◎ @SkypeClassroom
◎ #worldgeochat
◎ #GlobalClassConnect

On Twitter, provide a time, date, and ages of students

Most of American and Canadian friends were from here
Middle and High School Schedules *(Setback #2)*

- Rotating schedules
- Different times and timezones

Suggested to create a Google Sheet

Keep a hard copy of schedule near desk and at home

“Number” your days on a calendar for easy access

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Controlling the “Chaos”

Paul Solarz (http://tinyurl.com/lrxl6jg)

◎ 5th grade teacher
◎ Author of Learn Like a Pirate
◎ Altered the list of jobs to provide students:
  ◦ Greeter/Closer/Sign Holder
  ◦ Speakers
  ◦ “Main Communication Hub” → filter system
  ◦ Researchers (most of the students)
    ○ Google Maps
    ○ Atlas and globes
  ◦ Recorder → PHYSICAL
    ○ Tried online…
  ◦ Runners
  ◦ Photographer
  ◦ Supervisor → What’s working; what’s not
  ◦ Next year: Trying to LIVE-TWEET!
Technical Issues (Setback #3)

Sound issues???
◎ Whiteboards and markers → Lifesaver!
◎ Use the “chat” feature on Skype if sound is spotty
◎ Sign Holders help

Video/Wifi issues???
◎ Use the “audio call” on Skype
◎ Resorted to my personal computer because of Wifi
◎ Use landlines IF possible

Skype being pesky? Use Google Hangouts!
QUESTIONS??
Venezuela

AMAZING Skype with friends in Venezuela

*Sang us a song* about the beauty of the country

At the end conversation, they asked for help → immediately, my students wanted to know more

thanks Mrs. Samantha!
Was a great meeting but short!!
we can plan to do more skypes in the next

I dare to share with you our link of paypal. We are facing very hard times here in venezuela and we ask for help to buy medicines and food. Please if you can give us any donation will be a bless

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=2KUQP9PQG48SE
Day of the Dead w/Mexico City

Different uses for Skype!

Through Twitter, we connected with English learners who wanted to share

Our students were patient and curious

Already learning about Day of the Dead → emphasis and new perspectives
What Have I Seen?

- Curiosity spike
- Engagement HIGHLY increase
- Leaders emerge and wallflowers shine
- Cooperation skills increase
- Inquiry skills increase
- Controlled chaos
- Smiles and laughs

Overall, I’ve seen the potential of Skype and what it offers to students
THANK YOU!

Email or Tweet me:
@SamMandeville
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tinyurl.com/MSkypeResources

Break those 4 walls!